

CITY ENGINEERING TIMES

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Columbus, Indiana

December, 1991

SPECIAL EDITION: ANNUAL REPORT 1991 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

CENTRAL AVENUE WORK SCHEDULED

Construction crews should begin working on the section of Central Avenue from Tenth Street to 24th Street early in 1992. This is the first phase of the reconstruction of this busy arterial. Future phases include improvements from National Road to Rocky Ford Road and from Rocky Ford Road to Bakalar Drive.

The City expects bids for the project to be opened during the February letting of the Indiana Department of Transportation. The project has been delayed recently by the expiration of federal highway funds which have now been reinstated by Congress. Federal funds will pay 80% of the construction costs.

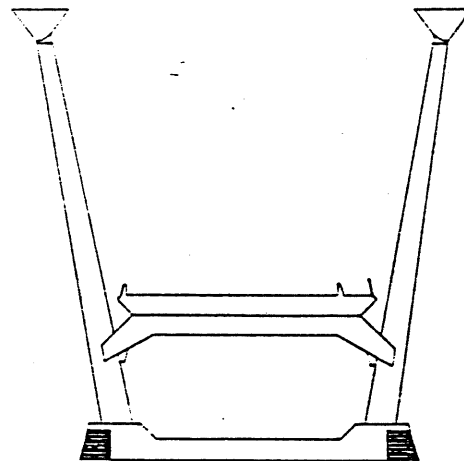
Construction should begin by April 1 and should be completed in time for the Farm Progress Show.

The first phase of the project includes the widening of Central Avenue to four lanes and the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of 22nd and Central. The construction also includes new curb and gutter, new sidewalks, and new storm sewer. The City, with the assistance of Kris Medic Thomas, City Landscape Manager, is organizing a tree planting program for the lots adjacent to this project.

The next two phases, from National Road to Rocky Ford Road and from Rocky Ford Road to Bakalar Drive are both in the final plan development stage. Right-of-way must be acquired and federal funding approved for construction, hopefully in 1993.

NEW CITY ENGINEER

George Dutro resigned from the position of City Engineer in August to pursue his MBA at Indiana University. Named as his successor was David Hayward, who previously served as County Highway Engineer.



Cross section of proposed bridge as designed by Emelio Ambasz.

PLANS FOR NEW BRIDGE UNVEILED

On July 17, 1991 representatives from the Indiana Department of Transportation, Butler, Fairman, & Seufert, and Emelio Ambasz were in Columbus to present the preliminary designs for the proposed new bridge which will connect to Second Street. Since that time, the City Engineer's office has been coordinating the details of the proposed design with all of the parties involved.

Prior to construction, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management must approve a remediation plan for the old city landfill.

A public hearing for the project will be held in January, 1992.

Construction of the new bridge should begin in 1992 following a letting in June or July. Completion of the project is expected in 1993. Following completion of the new bridge, the existing bridge will be reconstructed in 1994.

S.R. 46 IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

A group of engineers, architects, landscape architects, and planners from around the nation gathered in Columbus the week of September 9 - 13 to begin planning improvements to Jonathan Moore Pike, the City's "Front Door". The group was assisted by City officials, including the City Engineer, state officials, and community leaders.

The study is being funded from a federal grant along with Build Indiana funds. It is hoped that this project could be used as a blueprint for other cities which were affected by the construction of the interstate highway system.

The study is expected to address safety, lighting, deficiencies in the interchange, and flooding as well as aesthetic issues.

The study group is expected to meet in Columbus again January 8 - 10. Following completion of the study, design plans must be prepared with construction scheduled to begin in 1993.

CITY/REGION

INTERSECTION CONSTRUCTION

Motorists will have to wait a few more months for the completion of the construction at the intersections of 25th Street and National Road and 25th Street and Marr Road. The work on National Road is essentially complete with the exception of the final layer of asphalt which is to be laid next spring. The work on the north half of 25th Street is also essentially complete.

Work on the eastbound bridge on 25th Street will proceed over the winter. Completion of the project, which is being constructed by Contractors United, Inc. of Columbus, is expected by June of next year.

TRAFFIC PATTERNS TO CHANGE AT HOSPITAL

As part of the Bartholomew County Hospital renovation project, traffic patterns on 17th Street and Haw Creek Avenue will be changed. A new entrance street and bridge will be constructed to the north of 17th Street which will connect to Haw Creek Avenue. Haw Creek Avenue will be reconstructed and a new traffic signal installed at the intersection of 17th and Haw Creek. Costs for these improvements will be shared by the City and the Hospital.

TAYLOR RD. DRAINAGE STUDY

At the request of area residents, the City is studying drainage along Taylor Road south of Waycross Drive. In their petition, the neighborhood group cited difficulty maintaining the steep ditch slopes and a desire to have the open ditch enclosed in a storm sewer system. The preliminary data for the study has been gathered, final recommendations are expected following observation of some heavy winter and spring rains.

PEOPLE TRAILS PHASE IV

The City Engineer's office prepared plans and specifications for the Park Board for Phase IV of the People Trails Project. This phase included trails in Clifty Park, along Marr Road, and along State Street. Completion is expected in the spring. The work is also being inspected by the City Engineer's office.

NEW SIDEWALKS

Sidewalk funds made available by the City Council enabled the City Engineer's office to bid construction of sidewalks along Parkside Drive at Westenedge Park, 22nd Street at Donner Park, and along Brooks Street and Indiana Avenue. Completion of the sidewalks is expected early in 1992.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Why did the chicken cross the street?
To find her brick!

STREETSCAPE : SUCCESS!!!

As part of the first phase of Streetscape, the City Engineer's office orchestrated the downtown traffic changeover, the conversion of Washington Street from one way to two way. The changeover, which took place April 13, 1991, was very well publicized and the public was well educated prior to the changeover. A previously apprehensive City Engineer George Duto commented following the changeover, "Paul Kennon was right. It works". The change continues to be well accepted by city residents and visitors.

The City Engineer's office also assisted the Community Development Department in the design and construction of this year's Streetscape Phase II, which is now complete except for the installation of the new streetlights.

ANNUAL OVERLAY PROGRAM

The City's annual street overlay program covered 10.3 miles of streets this year, approximately 6% of the City's total street mileage. Total cost of the project, constructed by Contractors United, Inc. of Columbus, was \$272,281.15.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECT

Improvements to traffic signals along Tenth Street and the installation of a new signal at Taylor Road and Waycross Drive should be completed early in 1992. Construction of the project has been delayed due to late delivery of the signal poles.

ANNEXATIONS/SUBDIVISIONS INCREASE STREET MILEAGE

Columbus now has 180.6 miles of streets, an increase of 14.5 miles from the previous year due to annexations and new subdivisions. Randy Sims has recently updated the City's inventory and submitted the necessary documentation to the state, which uses it in the distribution formula for MVH and Road & Street funds.

STORM SEWER MASTERPLAN

SIECO, Inc. has been hired by the City to prepare a storm sewer masterplan. This masterplan is expected to address the separation of the combined sanitary/storm sewers in the "big block" area of the City. The masterplan will also address drainage in other parts of the City and standards for drywell installations. The final plan is expected in early 1992.

THOROUGHFARE PLAN UPDATE

D.E. McGillem & Assoc. has been retained by the City to review and recommend revisions to the City Thoroughfare Plan. The Plan contains standards which are used for the construction of new streets as development takes place and for the reconstruction of existing streets.

"CAPITAL FOR A DAY"

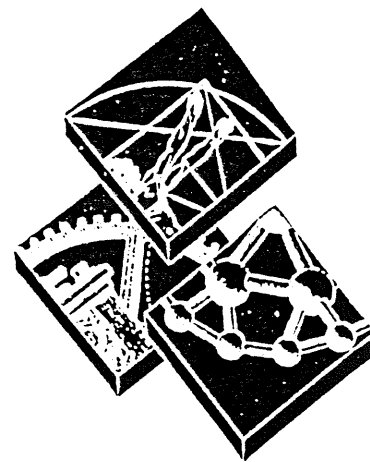
December 5, 1991 will go down in history as the day Columbus was the state capital for a day. Governor Evan Bayh, INDOT Commissioner John Dillon, and INDOT Deputy Commissioner Kathy Lyon visited the site of the new bridge at the west entrance to the city. Governor Bayh cited the public/private partnership in addressing the need for the bridge, the location of the bridge, and the attention to the remediation of the old city landfill as examples to other communities, "This shows what can happen when a community really gets united on a project".

INDOT officials also updated the community on various projects which are on their five year program.

RIVER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The City and County have agreed to cooperatively improve River Road from the northwest corner of the Columbus Municipal Airport to Co. Rd. 550N. Plans are being prepared by D. E. McGillem & Assoc. for construction in the spring of 1992. River Rd. will serve as the primary access to the Farm Progress Show.

National Engineers Week®
February 16-22, 1992



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EDITORIALS

LETTERS

Columbus is involved in many exciting, important projects that will shape this city for years to come. Things get done in Columbus, and it is very rewarding to be a part of it.

Equally rewarding is the trust and support that you receive from the Mayor, Council, department heads, and staff. Responsibility and requisite authority are assigned in proper measure, and having the resources to accomplish your goals is a pleasant experience.

One night this year stands out as most exciting for me: Saturday April 13. The Downtown Traffic Changeover had been well planned and publicized, having vowed to effect the change under any circumstances short of a hurricane. The weather was to test the limits of our resolve. At 3:00 in the afternoon, facing threatening skies and even worse predictions, we made the substantially - less-than-unanimous decision to go. Less than 16 hours later, on a bright Sunday morning, people drove both ways on Washington Street for the first time since 1957. The Mayor pulled over and rested on a granite bench, and I made the comment that I had previously not been confident to make, "Paul Kennon was right. It works."

Thanks, Columbus, for letting me be your City Engineer for six years.

George Dutro, former City Engineer

WORKING TOGETHER

It is my pleasure to present this annual report. I have appreciated the cooperation and support of my staff and other departments, the Mayor, and the City Council following my appointment to succeed George Dutro as City Engineer. The spirit of cooperation and teamwork make Columbus a special place to work and live.

As most of you know, I previously served as Bartholomew County Highway Engineer. Having served in that capacity and having lived in Columbus for 14 years, the transition was a relatively easy one. However, there are many projects and activities associated with this job which are unique to Columbus.

That, in fact, is one of the most exciting aspects of this job; the variety of unique projects and the innovative solutions, the ways Columbus gets the job done.

The public/private partnership in Columbus is something to be proud of. The City has developed a good relationship with the Indiana Department of Transportation, in particular Commissioner Christine Letts (who has now moved on to another division) and Deputy Commissioner Kathy Lyon, which must be maintained and nurtured to insure the success of our efforts. The new Commissioner John Dillon visited Columbus last week and pledged his support.

David L. Hayward, City Engineer

EXCELLENCE

The following are excerpts from a speech by Martin Jischke at his inauguration as President of Iowa State University:

"Genuine excellence is no small goal. It does not come easily, cheaply, or quickly. Genuine excellence is achieved by a dogged determination; a daily commitment to learn, to create, to serve - a daily commitment to give the best of ourselves."

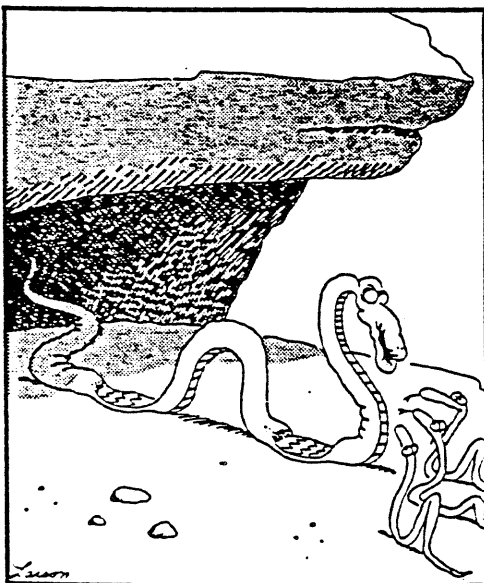
"A commitment to excellence cannot be imposed; it must come from within."

"Excellence is not the destination, but the journey. It is not the arrival, but the voyage. It is not perfection, but the seeking of perfection."

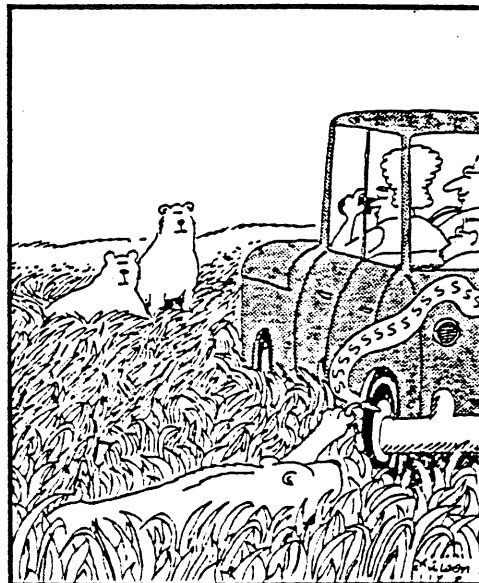
"We must constantly question, re-examine, and change the ways we fulfill our mission."

"As we recommit ourselves... we must ensure that we warrant the trust of those we serve. I fear that we are losing that trust. I speak of the people's faith that what we do is for the good of all, of the people's trust that we carry out our task in a manner that serves society well. Government exists to serve society, we do not exist to serve our own interests. We exist to advance the larger public purposes of our community. We exist because of the faith and trust of the people. This trust is fragile. Each administration must renew its commitment."

COMICS



"Again? Oh, all right... one warm, summer evening many years ago, I was basking on a stretch of Interstate 95 not far from here..."



Cow philosophy

LOOKING AHEAD WHAT TO EXPECT IN 1992

FRONT DOOR PROJECT DESIGNERS MEET IN JANUARY

The design team for the "Front Door" project is expected to meet in Columbus January 8, 9, and 10 for its second design session. The first session, held in September, was primarily a background information session. During the January session, the group will continue to develop specific design features of the project. Also during the January session, efforts will be made to coordinate the "Front Door" project with the upcoming bridge project with Emelio Ambasz.

CITY, STATE TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW BRIDGE

The Indiana Department of Transportation plans to open bids for the construction of the new bridge over the East Fork of the White River into Columbus at its June or July letting. The construction marks the first time INDOT has enlisted the aid of an architect in the design of a bridge and the first time that a Superfund site remediation is included in the construction of a road and/or bridge project. Construction is expected to be completed in 1993.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW

Intense planning will take place during the early months of 1992 for the details of the Farm Progress Show which is coming to Columbus in September. The City Engineer's office will be very involved in the planning of the traffic control for the 300,000 people expected in the area for this 3 day event.

RIVER ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

In a cooperative agreement, the City and County will reconstruct River Road during the early months of 1992. This road is vital to the northern areas of the city, especially the Columbus Municipal Airport, since the closing of Road 400N by the County due to a structurally deficient bridge. This new road will enhance traffic follow from those areas to northbound US 31. The newly constructed road will also be used for access from Co. Rd. 550N to the Farm Progress Show.

BAKALAR GREEN PAVING

The City Engineer's office will be assisting the Columbus Municipal Airport in the paving of the Bakalar Green project. The paving portion of the project is expected to be completed in 1992, with other elements of the project scheduled for completion at a later date.

CENTRAL AVENUE PHASE I RECONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

Construction is expected to begin by April 1 following a February letting on Phase I of the Central Avenue project. Phase I includes the section from 10th Street to 25th Street. The contractor will be expected to keep the road open during construction. Completion is expected in September, in time for the Farm Progress Show.

US 31, SR 46 COMPLETION

Completion of the intersection reconstruction at SR 46 and US 31 is scheduled for June. The work, which has been in progress since 1990, has continued throughout the winter months with the reconstruction of the eastbound bridge on 25th Street. Construction of curbed medians has been delayed by litigation by property owners along the project.

STREETSCAPE, LOOP TO PROGRESS IN 1992.

The City Engineer's office will again assist the Community Development staff in the preparation of plan for the next phase of Streetscape. Planning is already underway for a project to enhance "The Loop", including intersection graphics and distinctive pavement markings.

HOSPITAL TO OPEN NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE

Opening of the new entrance to the Bartholomew County Hospital is scheduled for May.. The work, which includes a new bridge over Haw Creek, has continued over the winter months. Completion of the paving and the installation of the new traffic signal at the intersection of 17th Street and Haw Creek Avenue is expected in the spring.

UTILITY STREET CUT PROCEDURES TO BE EXAMINED

The City Engineer's office will continue its reassessment of current utility street cut permitting and repair procedures. It is hoped that a cooperative solution with the utility companies can be reached rather than an ordinance change. New products and procedures for the repair of cuts are also being examined and tested.

CITY ENGINEER OFFICE STAFF

City Engineer: David L. Hayward
Assistant City Engineer: Steve Rucker
Secretary: Charlotte Welmer
Draftsman: Ernie Wehner
Draftsman: Randy Sims
Field Inspector: John Butler

COMPUTER MAPPING

Ernie Wehner and Randy Sims of the City Engineer's office, in cooperation with the Planning Department and the County Surveyor's office will continue to convert city maps to computer format. The project has been in the planning phase for several years. Implementation of the mapping project will take several years due to the cost and the number of maps and databases involved. When completed, the computer mapping system will make more accurate information more readily available to the public.

NEW THOROUGHFARE PLAN

Completion and subsequent approval of a new City Thoroughfare plan is anticipated early in 1992. The Thoroughfare Plan serves as a planning tool for the engineering and planning staffs. Approval of the plan by the Plan Commission and the City Council is required before it becomes effective.

STORM SEWER MASTERPLAN

Completion of a City Storm Sewer Masterplan is expected in early 1992 which is expected to chart the path for the separation of sanitary and storm sewers in the older sections of the city. Part of the implementation of this plan has been included in the Central Avenue project. Further implementation of the masterplan would be funded through the storm sewer and storm sewer non-reverting funds.

REORGANIZATION

During 1991, a reorganization of certain city functions was approved which created a new Department of City Services which removed animal control, MVH, sanitation, traffic, transit, and the city garage from the control of the City Engineer. Therefore, these departments will not be covered by this report. I have pledged my support and cooperation to the City Services staff to assist in making this new organizational structure functional and efficient.

ENGINEERING DEPT. MISSION

The mission of the Engineering Department is to provide the technical and operational needs of the city. The duties and tasks necessary to accomplish our mission are varied and many, including investigations, inspections, plan development, plan review, and mapping. In fulfilling our mission we must work with the public, other city officials, Bartholomew County officials, INDOT officials, developers, consultants, utility companies, and other city departments.